

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02911 131828Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----121766 131831Z /45

P 131347Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3143
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2911

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH BC
SUBJ: USG CONCERN OVER MOUNTING VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA

REF: STATE 227288

1. BECAUSE EXTAFFMIN MOGWE ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT
KHAMA TO ZAMBIA LAST WEEKEND AND WAS PRE-
OCCUPIED BY CABINET AND OTHER MEETINGS REQUIRING
POSTPONEMENT OF EARLIER APPOINTMENT, I WAS ONLY ABLE
TO SEE MOGWE THIS MORNING (SEPTEMBER 13) ON REFTEL.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY PRESENTATION, MOGWE SAID
HE "FULLY SHARED" THE VIEWS THEREIN. HE WAS
DISMAYED BY NKOMO'S "SONG AND DANCE" ABOUT
SHOOTING DOWN THE RHODESIAN PLANE, AN ACT MOGWE
SAID NKOMO "COULD AND SHOULD HAVE DENIED".
HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT
"MENTALITY OF GUERRILLAS", THEIR STRIVING FOR
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"LAURELS AND PRAISE" WHICH CAUSES THEM TO
LOSE THEIR "SENSE OF BALANCE". STILL THE ERROR
HAD BEEN MADE BY NKOMO, I.E., THE POLITICAL
LEADER, SO ONE HAD TO LOOK FOR FURTHER
EXPLANATION BY EXAMINING NKOMO'S STATE OF MIND.
MOGWE SPECULATED THAT NKOMO HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY
FRUSTRATED BY THE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PATRIOTIC

FRONT AND THE DISARRAY AMONG FRONTLINE CAUSED BY HIS MEETING WITH SMITH.

3. MOGUE ADDED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY MYSTIFIED NOT ONLY BY NKOMO'S ADMISSION BUT HIS JUSTIFICATION OF USE OF A ROCKET TO BRING DOWN CIVILIAN PLANE. "ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT AS LONG AS THERE IS A GLIMMER, A RAY OF HOPE, HE WOULD HAVE HELD BACK HIS ROCKETS." THE EFFECT OF USING EVEN ONE ROCKET HAD BEEN TO DEEPEN THE GULF BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK IN RHODESIA THAT MAKES A SOLUTION ENORMOUSLY MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. THIS PROMPTED MOGWE TO REFLECT ON CURRENT SITUATION WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED IN A FEW BRIEF COMMENTS THAT CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A) BECAUSE OF KAUNDA'S "MISHANDLING" OF THE SMITH-NKOMO ENCOUNTER (HE FAILED TO INFORM OTHER FRONTLINE STATES AND MUGABE), THE PROSPECTS OF EFFECTIVE AND UNITED FRONTLINE INFLUENCE HAVE DIMINISHED;

B) PRESIDENT KHAMA STRONGLY SUPPORTED, AND WOULD STILL NOT DISCOURAGE, ANY "OFFERS OF SURRENDER" THAT SMITH MIGHT MAKE; INDEED, GOB
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WOULD ENCOURAGE SUCH OFFERS AND ANY MEETINGS WHERE THEY MIGHT BE MADE;

C) PRESIDENT KAUNDA GRAVELY MISJUDGED THE SITUATION BY NOT INFORMING OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES AND HAS PROMISED "HE WILL NEVER MAKE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN". HOWEVER MOGWE BELIEVES HE IS SO PRO-NKOMO AND SO EAGER TO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE FUTURE OF ZIMBABWE THAT HIS JUDGMENT CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

4. FINALLY, MOGWE SAID HE FEARED THAT WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE END OF RECRIMINATIONS AND ACCUSATIONS. HE HAD SPOKEN WITH A JOURNALIST IN ZAMBIA SEPTEMBER 9 WHO SAID THIS WEEK'S NEWSWEEK WOULD PUBLISH AN NKOMO INTERVIEW CONTAINING EVEN MORE EXTREME STATEMENTS, E.G., RE NYERERE, THAN WE HAVE HEARD TO DATE. HE ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO OBTAIN THE TEXT OF NEWSWEEK ARTICLE. I SAID WE WOULD INQUIRE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE BY
TELEGRAM TOE TEXT OF ANY COMMENTS BY NKOMO
APPEARING IN CURRENT ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK.
NORLAND

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NNN

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